



Nauru Monthly Communicable Diseases Surveillance Bulletin
November 2008

Introduction

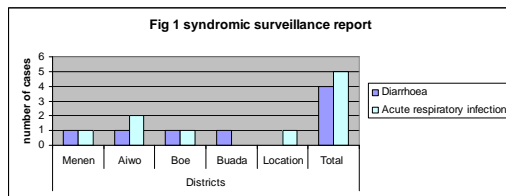
Syndromic Surveillance System (i.e. reporting of signs and symptoms on diseases under notification and lab- confirmed diseases) has been in place and monthly communicable diseases surveillance bulletin has been successfully produced since October 2008 with technical support from World Health Organization. Again in this bulletin, we would like to highlight that due to the lack of laboratory capabilities to confirm the diagnosis of certain diseases, the Syndromic Surveillance System is very useful for Nauru in order to implement timely intervention on effective disease prevention and control and also to comply International Health Regulation. This is the second surveillance bulletin from Nauru Department of Health and we plan to distribute this report on a monthly basis.

Table 1. Syndromic Surveillance Report

Syndrome	Districts					
	Menen	Aiwo	Boe	Buada	Location	Total
Diarrhoea	1	1	1	1	0	4
Diarrhoea with blood	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza like illness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute respiratory infection	1	2	1	0	1	5
Acute fever & rash	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute flaccid paralysis	0	0	0	0	0	0

Syndromic Surveillance Report

Syndromic Surveillance System can detect different kinds of important communicable diseases such as Diarrhoea, Diarrhoea with blood, Influenza like illnesses, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection or Pneumonia, Acute fever and rashes-possible measles, rubella, parvovirus, dengue, and Acute Flaccid Paralysis- possible poliomyelitis. Table 1 and figure 1 showed the number of cases by different districts in Nauru for the month of November 2008. 3 diarrhoea cases were under 5 years of age and 1 case was an adult. Likewise, 3 cases of acute respiratory infections were under 5 years old and 1 case was an adult.



Laboratory Report

Table 2 showed the number of tests requested and number of confirmed diseases through laboratory investigation. There were 5 cases of hepatitis B and a case of syphilis detected in the month of November 08.

Comment

Again in this month, there might still have some other diseases which were undetected or unreported, however we are trying to strengthen the case detection and reporting system which have also been in place. The prevalence of hepatitis B seems to be high in Nauru and therefore counseling, screening, education, prevention and control intervention should be strengthened. However, with the effort on expanding EPI program, Nauru covers almost 100% coverage on childhood immunization including hepatitis B vaccine. In addition, Nauru public health department initiated hepatitis B mass vaccination program in late 2007 and all the high risk personnel had been immunized hepatitis B vaccine.

No deaths from the diseases under notification were reported in November. All the doctors and nurses were encouraged again to immediately notify the diseases under notification, so that an investigation can be done and control measures can be undertaken.

Nauru Lab Report (November-08)

Diseases	Number of tests requested	Number positive (Nauru lab)	No. sent to reference lab (QML)	No. confirmed by reference lab(QML)
Chlamydia	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	44	1	0	0
Gonorrhoea	0	0	0	0
Trichomonas	0	0	0	0
HIV	63	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	65	5	0	0
Dengue	0	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Filarisis	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0

News

Health messages video clips related to Communicable diseases education for prevention have been developed in collaboration with media department and official launching for these video messages will be carried out on 9th December 2008. All these messages will be broadcasted from Nauru television and Nauru radio in rotation in order to have mass media coverage on communicable diseases education on prevention and control.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank all those persons who had reported the information, as well as Dr Jacob Kool, WHO, for his technical assistance in setting up this surveillance system.

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